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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01487 061302Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W
----------083836 061307Z /47
P 061215Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9628

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STADIS//////////////////////////

FOR AF/W - AMBASSADOR KRYZA ONLY FROM DUNBAR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: N/A
SUBJ: N/A

1. PAT DUMONT HAS GIVEN ME FOLLOWING MESSAGE FOR YOU RE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HERE AND HAS ASKED THAT THE DISTRIBUTION BE LIMITED AS INDICATED ABOVE.

2. QUOTE PEACE CORPS WASHINGTON EXPECTS PROGRAM FILL FOR SUMMER 78 TO BE FAR BELOW NUMBER OF VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED. LOW FILL, PARTICULARLY IN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION REQUESTS (AFTER THESE WERE REDUCED BY WASHINGTON FROM TWENTY TWO TO TEN) IS APT TO HAVE SERIOUS NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR PEACE CORPS PROGRAM HERE.

3. WITH TWO WEEKS TO GO BEFORE CLOSE OF INVITATION, PC/W HAS FIVE PROSPECTS FOR EDUCATION, NONE FOR HEALTH (TWELVE WERE REQUESTED) AND NONE FOR JOURNALISTS (TWO WERE REQUESTED).

4. ALSO HAVING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING OFFICIAL REQUEST FOR TRAINEES ARRIVING THIS FALL TO BE ATTACHED TO MIN OF HEALTH BECAUSE OF MINISTER'S CONSTANT ABSENCE AND DESIRE
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TO WATCH OVER EXPENSES AND COMMITMENTS MADE BY HIS MINISTRY. MADAME BA, DIRECTOR OF MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE CENTERS, HAS IN EFFECT BEEN AWAY FROM WORK FOR ALMOST COMPLETE DURATION OF HER PREGNANCY AND IS ON MATERNITY LEAVE FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS AT LEAST. HER DEPUTY HAS NOT BEEN DELEGATED AUTHORITY TO ACT IN HER ABSENCE; CONSEQUENTLY MOST DECISIONS AFFECTING PEACE CORPS IN THE HEALTH AND SOCIAL

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AFFAIRS SECTOR HAVE BEEN ELEVATED TO MINISTERIAL LEVEL.
MINISTER IS OUT OF COUNTRY FOR NEXT TWO WEEKS.

5. IN VIEW OF DELAY IN OBTAINING REQUESTS AND MINISTER'S
CONCERN IN CONTROLLING EXPENSES, BELIEVE THAT REQUESTS FOR
VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING THIS FALL MAY IN FACT BE POSTPONED FOR
WINTER ARRIVAL. HEALTH VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED FOR THIS SUMMER COULD
ALSO BE POSTPONED UNTIL WINTER IF PC/W IS UNABLE TO FILL REQUESTS.

6. GIVEN DIOP'S FORMER ROLE AS MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND HIS
CURRENT CONCERN IN BRINGING ORDER TO HIS NEW MINISTRY,
PEACE CORPS' INABILITY TO DELIVER TEACHERS (WHERE THE GIRM FEELS
THEY ARE DESPERATELY NEEDED) COUPLED WITH MIN OF HEALTH CONTROL OF
SPENDING MAY ALTOGETHER DIMINISH THEIR DESIRE TO REQUEST AND
VOLUNTEERS IN THE HEALTH SECTOR FOR FALL OR WINTER. END QUOTE

7. PAT ASKS THAT, IF POSSIBLE, YOU DISCUSS THE FOREGOING WITH
CAROLYN PAYTON OR WITH WILLIAM GAYMON, REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR
AFRICA. DUNBAR

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